HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Seniors become pen pals with middle schoolers

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Winchester residents at the Jenks Center have a pen pal program with middle school students at McCall.
WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

If you've ever had a pen pal, you know how much fun it can be, a
Fullerton is helping Winchester seniors get them. They're McCal

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students, and Fullerton's project is called Letters Trellis.

"We've got 15 pairs," Fullerton says. "These letters feed the spirit and nourish the writers."

Karen Fullerton holds up an envelope with letters. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

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Students fill out a questionnaire, which includes whether they can read cursive.

“Some can’t and some seniors prefer writing their letters using a word processing program, even though hand written letters give them more personality,” Fullerton adds.

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McCall teacher Christine Austin and Jenks Social Worker Suzanne Norton coordinate the letters, and meet each month with the senior letter writers. To protect students’ privacy, all the letters go to the school in one envelope.

“The seniors say they’re so impressed with the students’ flexibility and kindness and they get together in June,” Fullerton says.

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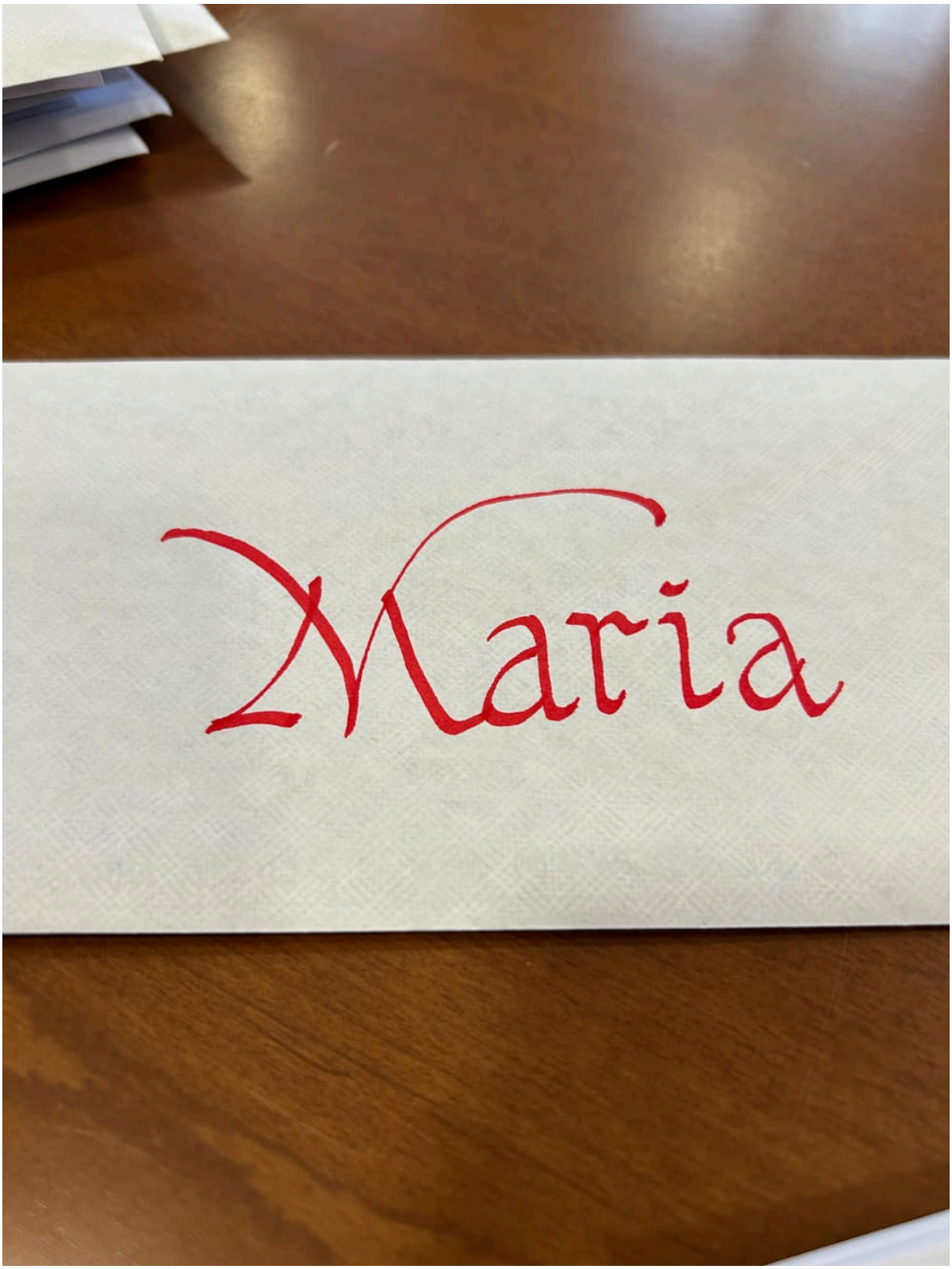

A letter that is part of the writing program between seniors and McCall students. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

The Hilltop Road resident started Letters Trellis in 2021 as part of the Jenks Center's Intergenerational Team which received a Cummings Fo grant.

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Eventually she and Winchester resident Shukong Ou worked together on the program and they invite farmers market attendees to hand write a letter to someone, and the program mails them.

Fullerton taught courses as part of a lifelong learning program in letter writing. While in France in 2002, she discovered at one of their many festivals a similar program with the theme of love letters which was a partial inspiration for Letters Trellis.

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Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four
already immersed in helpin
she wants residents to help her provide

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Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

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High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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